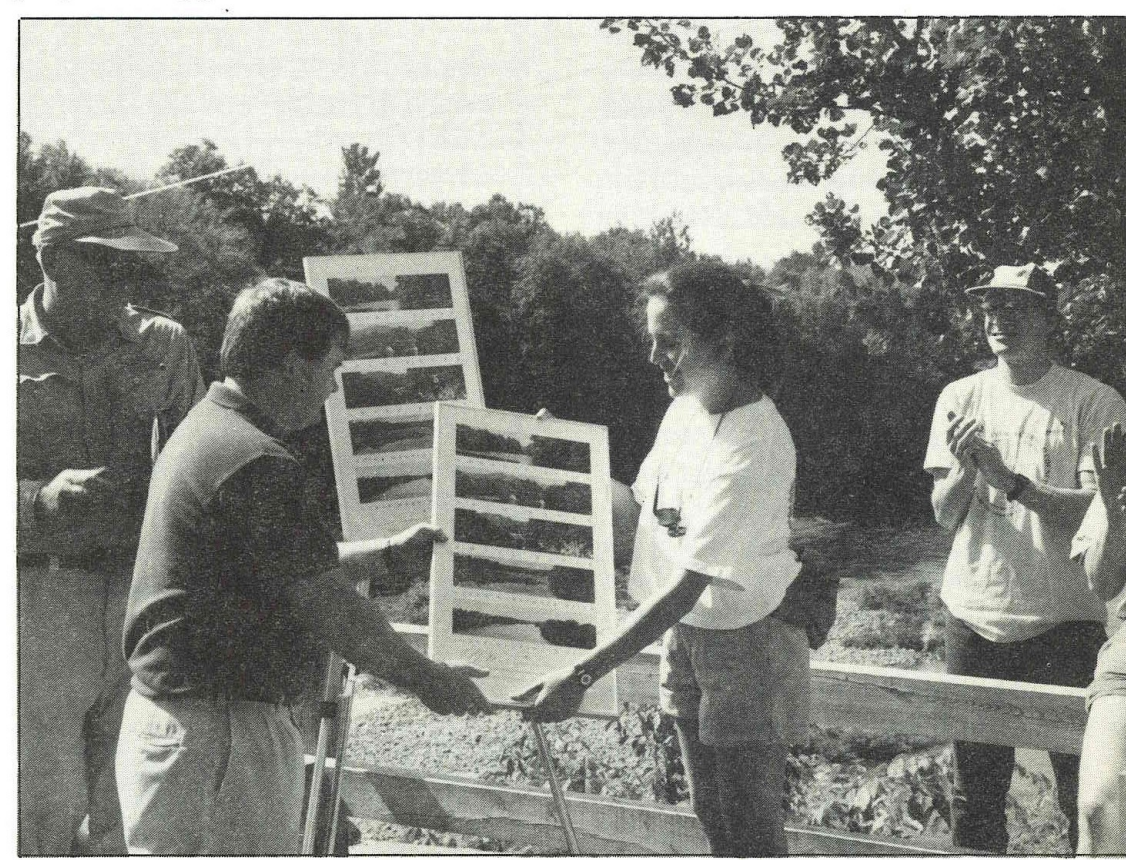


## Celebrating a Rivers Protection Bill... and Delighting in a River Sojourn

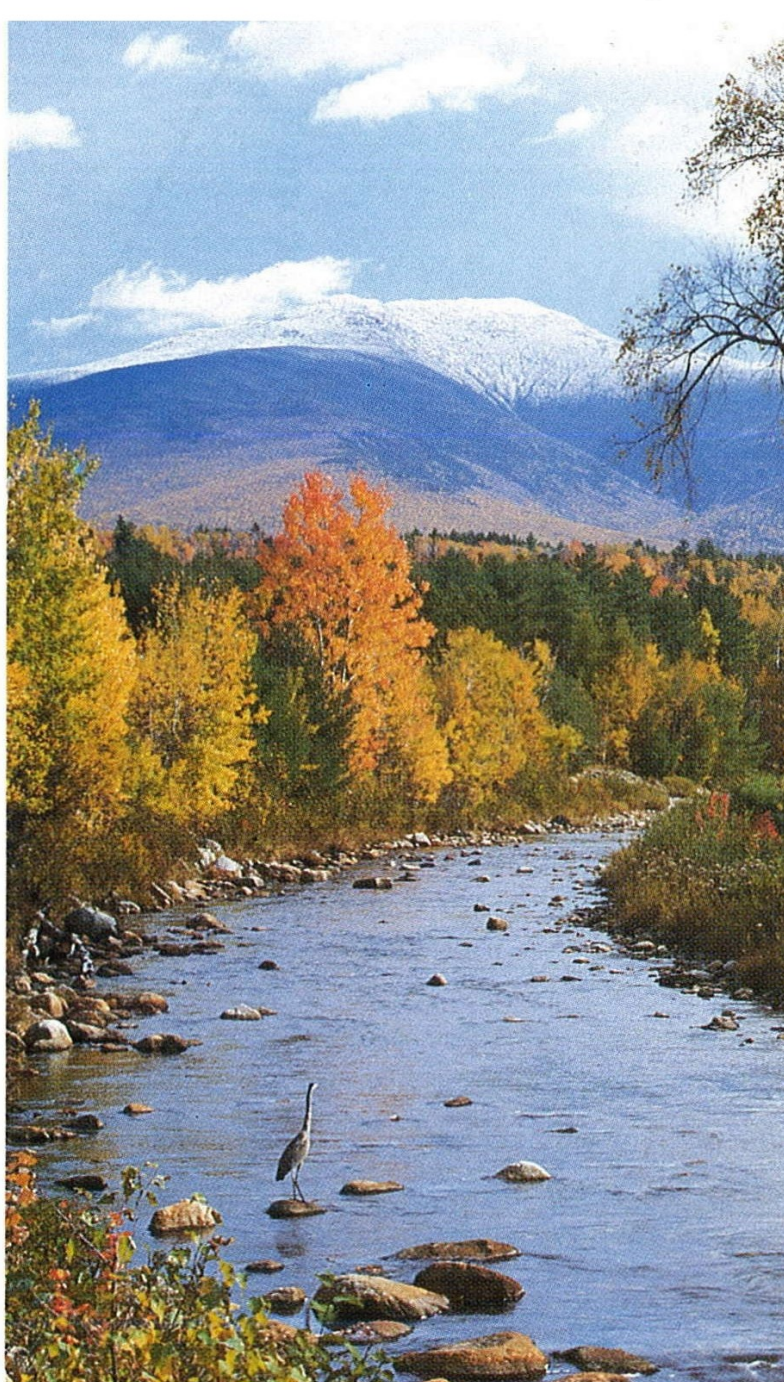
One of the major pieces of environmental legislation passed during the 1990 state session was HB 1432. The bill augmented the State's rivers protection and management program, begun, in 1988, by (1) creating a river classification system, (2) establishing in-stream protection measures for each river classification, (3) designating five rivers and river segments as protected, and (4) requiring the appointment of a local advisory committee for each designated river and river segment.

In order to celebrate the bill's passage, Governor Gregg, Commissioner Varney, members of the N.H. Rivers Campaign, and others paddled a portion of the Saco River, one of the five rivers designated in HB 1432. (The others were the Swift River and segments of the Lamprey, the Upper Merrimack, and the Lower Merrimack.) Running clear and cold out of the White Mountains, the Saco is a paddler's delight, ambling its way to the Atlantic down a broad-valley course of light-colored granitic sands.

Before embarking on the canoe trip, posters with photos of each of HB 1432's five designated rivers, created by the N.H. Rivers Campaign, were presented to several people. (At right, Commissioner Varney gives a poster to DES Rivers Coordinator Beth Patirino.)



## NEW HAMPSHIRE'S RIVERS



The Swift River is a outstanding natural resource of the Mt. Washington Valley



**Connecticut**  
255 miles  
30 towns

**Upper Merrimack**  
30 miles  
6 towns

**Lower Merrimack**  
15 miles 4 towns

**Swift**  
26 miles 5 towns

**Lamprey** 9.5 miles  
2 towns

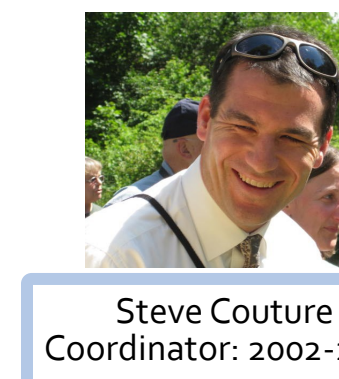
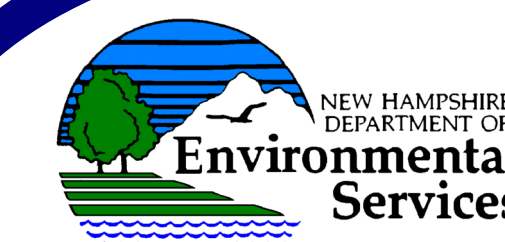
**Saco** 40 miles 4 towns

## CSPA Enacted

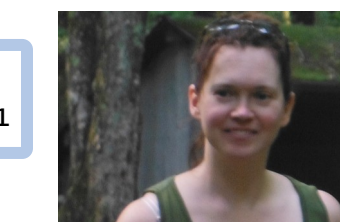
Enacted in 1991 to maintain the integrity of public waters, the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act created standards for development within 250' of the water's edge. These standards protect and preserve the valuable and fragile shorelands and quality of public waters for the greatest public benefit.

# Rivers Management and Protection Program

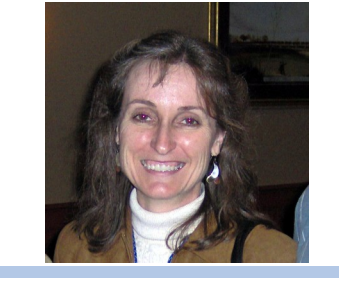
RSA 483 Rivers Management and Protection Act



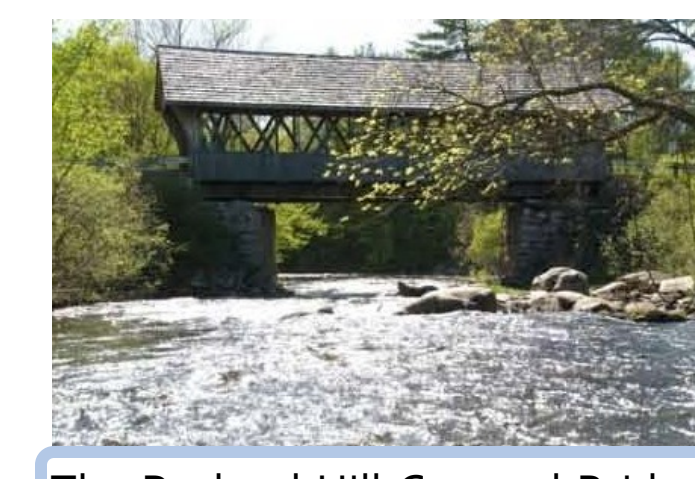
Steve Couture  
Coordinator: 2002-2011



Laura Weit-Marcum  
Acting Coordinator: 2009-2010



Jacquie Colburn  
Current Coordinator: 2011-Present



The Packard Hill Covered Bridge over the Mascoma River



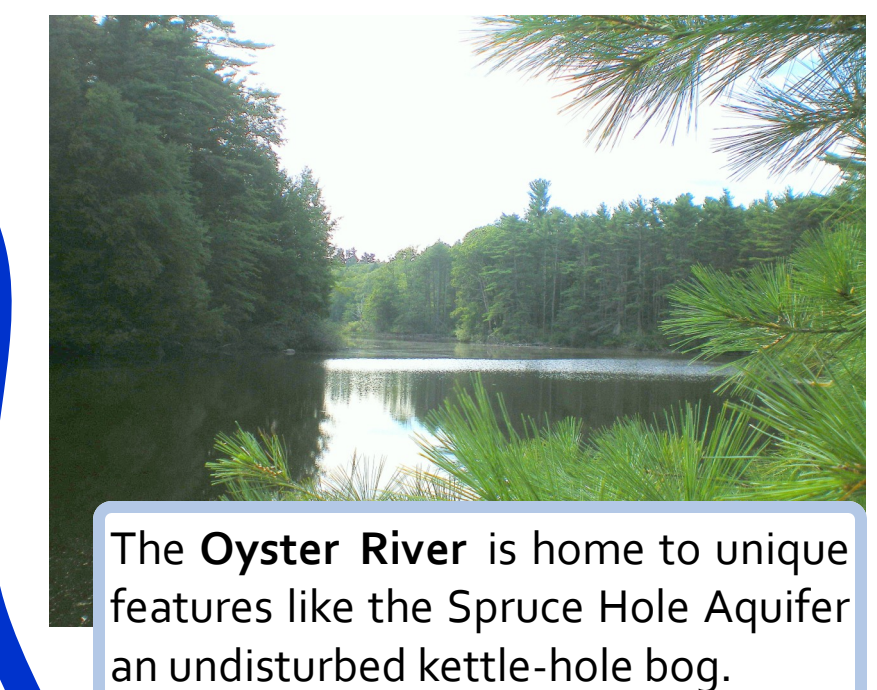
## Squamscott River

The Squamscott (above) and 1.8 miles of the Lamprey Rivers become the first designated tidal rivers after the Legislature allows for their inclusion in the RMPP.

**Lower Exeter & Squamscott**  
10 miles 4 towns

**Lamprey Watershed** 90 miles  
12 towns

The Lamprey Watershed becomes the first comprehensive watershed designation.



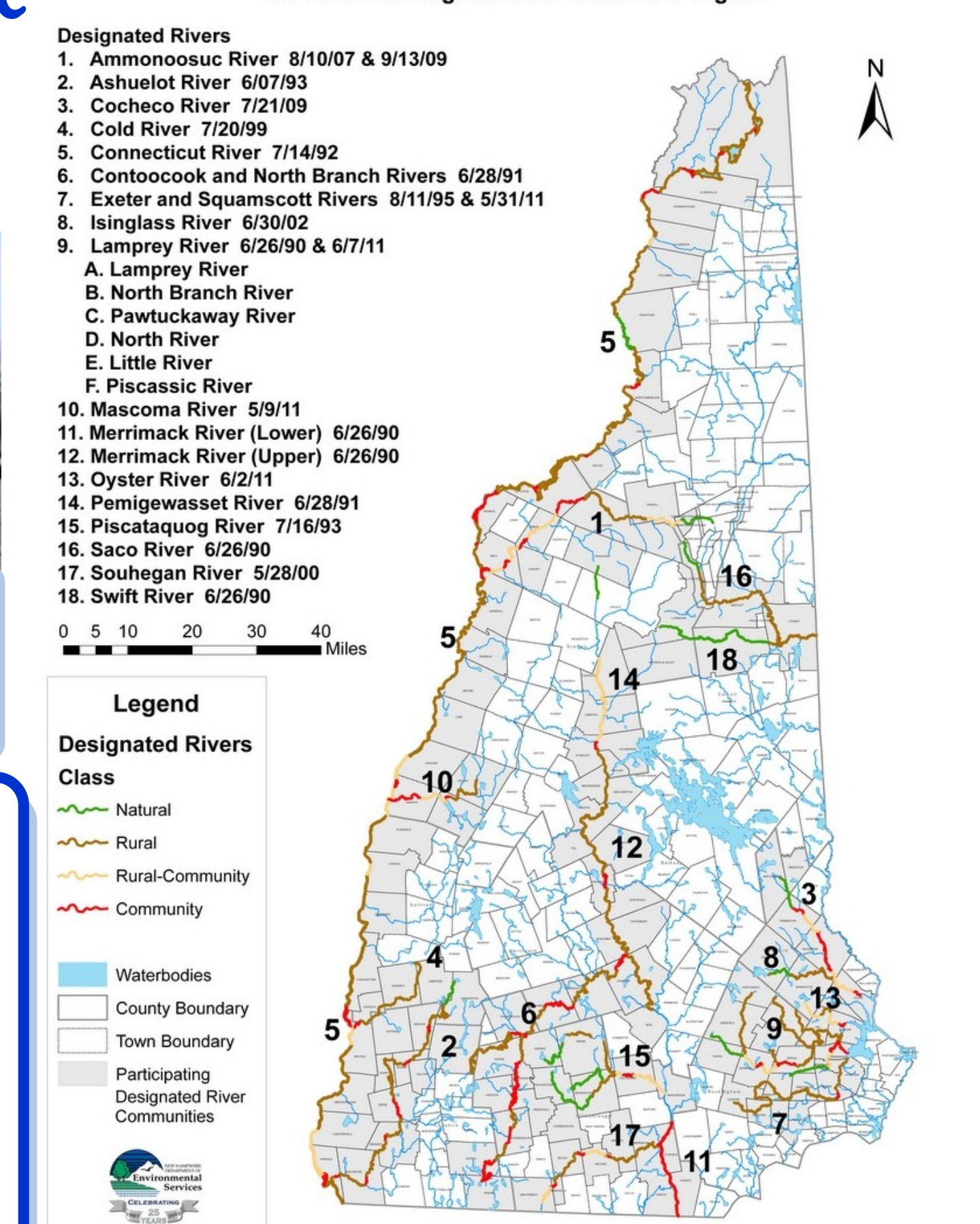
The Oyster River is home to unique features like the Spruce Hole Aquifer an undisturbed kettle-hole bog.

**Oyster** 14 miles 4 towns

**Mascoma** 25 miles  
3 towns

**Ammonoosuc** 12 miles  
3 towns

## DESIGNATED RIVERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



# Celebrating 25 Years of Rivers Protection 1988-2013

## State & Local Cooperation Protecting NH Rivers

The Rivers Management and Protection Act of 1988 (RSA 483) established the New Hampshire River Management and Protection Program (RMPP), a statewide rivers program. The purpose of the RMPP is to protect our state's significant river resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Protected rivers, called designated rivers, are selected for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. Through a unique combination of state and local resource management and protection, the state designates significant

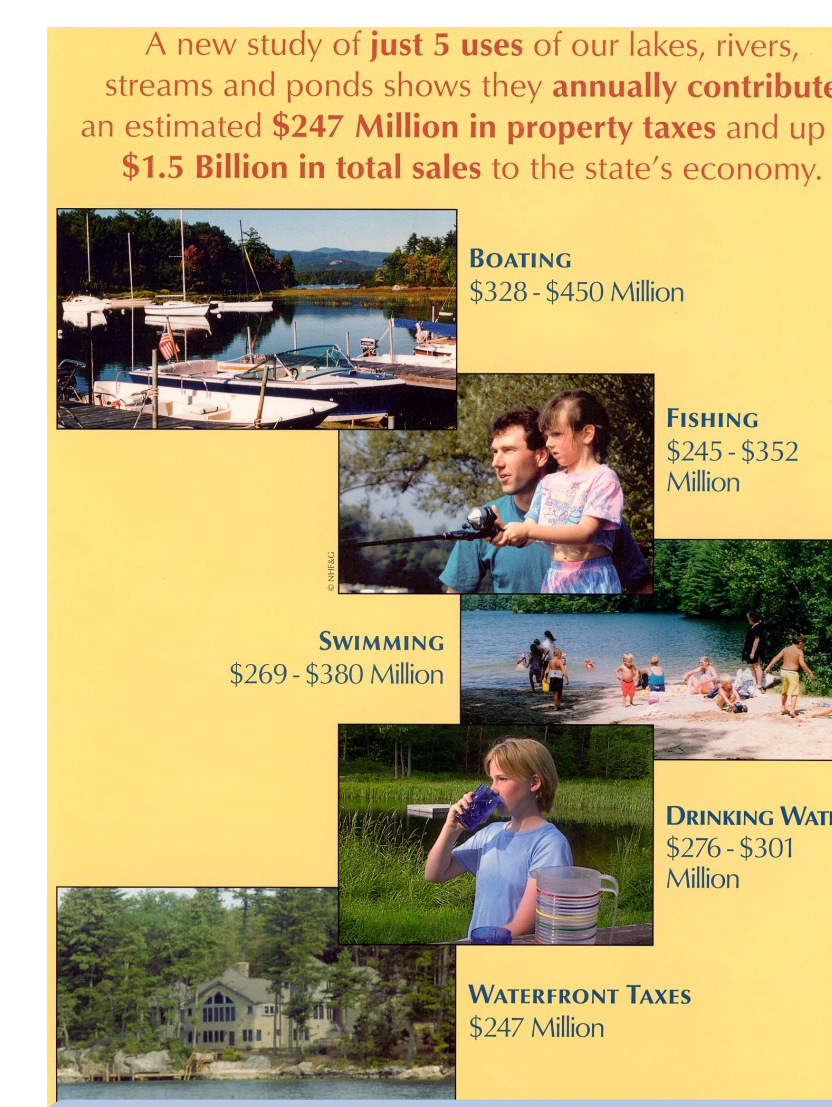
rivers and protects instream flow values while local entities develop and adopt river corridor management plans protecting shorelines and adjacent lands. Administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and staffed by a rivers coordinator, the RMPP works closely with the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), also established by RSA 483. The RMAC members represent a wide range of river interests and work closely with DES in an advisory capacity.

## Dam Removal Program

The Dam Removal & River Restoration Program aids dam owners and communities to bring significant environmental, economic and social benefits by removing dams when dam maintenance outweighs a dam's benefits.



The Homestead Dam on the Ashuelot River before and after dam removal.



A new study of just 5 uses of our lakes, rivers, streams and ponds shows they annually contribute an estimated \$247 Million in property taxes and up to \$1.5 Billion in total sales to the state's economy.

BOATING \$128-\$430 Million  
FISHING \$245-\$532 Million  
SWIMMING \$269-\$380 Million  
DISPENSING WATER \$276-\$301 Million  
WATERFRONT TAXES \$247 Million

In 2003, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the "What's Our Water Worth" study showed just how valuable NH waterways are to the state.

## Protected River Sign Program

Beginning in 2004, signs were placed at significant road crossings to tell the public of river designations.



**Souhegan ISF**  
State of NH funds the pilot study

**Awards for LACs**  
♦ President's Volunteer Service Award  
♦ Spirit of NH Volunteer Champion Award

**CSPA Expanded**  
The Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act expands to protect land along the rivers' edges.

**Cochecho** 35 miles  
5 towns

**Mascoma** 25 miles  
3 towns

**Ammonoosuc** 12 miles  
3 towns

**Flood Management Study Commission**  
In 2007, the Legislature established a commission to develop a comprehensive plan for New Hampshire that describes possible measures to minimize flood impacts and to abate future flooding problems.

**Ammonoosuc** 50 miles  
7 towns



In 2013, the Ammonoosuc River floods after Tropical Storm Irene passes over the region.

**Lamprey ISF**  
NOAA awards a federal grant to start pilot study.

## Major Floods

2005: Cold River & Warren Brook in Alstead  
2006: Mother's Day Flood: Salmon Falls, Piscataquog & Suncook Rivers  
2007: Patriot's Day Flood: Salmon Falls, Cochecho, Oyster, Contoocook Rivers & Piscataquog Rivers

Cost of damage from three flood events=\$60 million

## As of 2013:

1000 miles of designated rivers  
126 towns, places & State Parks  
23 Local Advisory Committees  
250+ volunteer LAC members



Barrington students urge Legislators to protect the Isinglass.



meanderings  
The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program  
A Publication of the DES, Department of Environmental Services 1997 - 2010

**Cold** 24 miles  
5 towns

**Souhegan** 39 miles  
6 towns

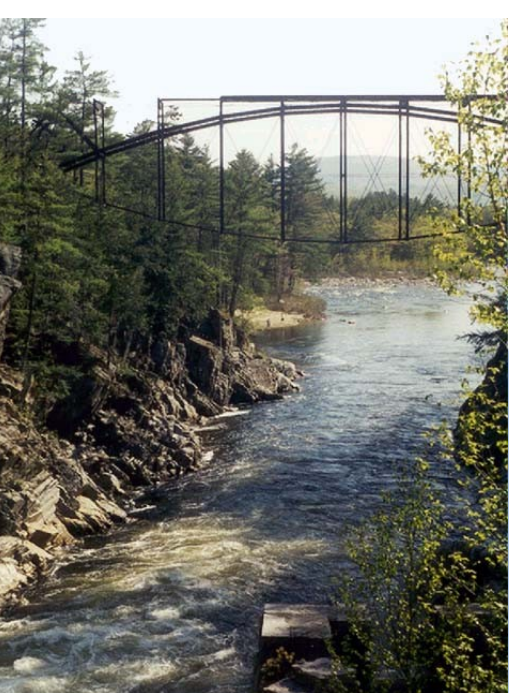
**Upper Exeter** 32 miles  
6 towns

**Ashuelot** 64 miles  
10 towns

**Piscataquog** 65 miles  
7 towns

**Contoocook & North Branch** 87 miles  
14 towns

**Pemigewasset** 60 miles  
12 towns



This bridge over the Pemigewasset River is the only remaining pumpkin seed bridge in New Hampshire.

## NH Rivers Council

First organized as the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign in 1985, the New Hampshire Rivers Council is a united voice for the protection of our rivers. The Rivers Campaign helped establish the Rivers Management and Protection Program in 1988 and guided the first river nominations into the new state rivers protection program.



The Upper Merrimack River looking north from the Route 3 bridge.

## Rivers Management Advisory Committee

Established in 1989, the RMAC works with DES to administer the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The Governor & Council appointed committee is comprised of 17 members representing business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and state agencies. The RMAC reviews proposed river nominations and reports to the Commissioner on the merit of the nominations. The RMAC has advised DES on instream flow rules and reviews and comments on the disposal of State-owned river front property.

